

**Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the July 21, 2004 Meeting  
Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building

Present: Jennifer Kaufman, Quentin Kessel, Lanse Minkler (acting chair), John Silander, and Frank Trainor.

Absent: Denise Burchsted, Robert Dahn, and Robert Thorson.

Town Staff: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.
2. The draft minutes of the May 19, 2004 meeting were reviewed, the date corrected and item 5 clarified. The minutes were then approved on a motion by Trainor and seconded by Silander. There was no June meeting of the CC.
3. Kessel reviewed the testimony made by Burchsted and Kessel at the July 12 DEP hearing on amending a portion of the aquifer mapping regulations. Burchsted, representing NWC spoke against lessening the aquifer modeling standards with regard to drought periods. Kessel, representing himself, addressed the issue of the current DEP practice of automatically excluding any watershed partially drained by a perennial stream from consideration as an aquifer recharge area. He noted that the Town Council had already forwarded the CC concerns in the form of a letter to the hearing. His testimony (Attachment 1) was along the lines of the March 1, 2004 CC letter to Corinne Fitting of the DEP, but added further justification related to a portion the proposed amendments. Specifically that if the DEP is to utilize particle tracking and/or other vector analyses to delineate the area of contribution to an aquifer, it made no sense to stop the computer program whenever the method showed groundwater coming from a watershed partially drained by a perennial stream. His testimony also included rebuttal of the DEP's May 21, 2004 response to the CC letter to fitting. This DEP letter (Attachment 2) was from Betsey Wingfield, Acting Director of the Planning and Standards Division of their Bureau of Water Management (two administrative levels above Fitting). In it, Wingfield wrote, "In essence, the Commission is proposing that indirect recharge areas be included in aquifer protection areas." Kessel responded that this was an incorrect statement and that what the Mansfield Conservation Commission was requesting is that the DEP not automatically exclude all portions of watersheds drained by perennial streams from being considered as recharge areas (Attachment 3).

Kaufman recommended and it was agreed that the CC should write a letter to the Town Council expressing appreciation for their having forwarded the CC's concerns to the DEP hearing and to include copies of Attachments 1- 3.
4. Kessel move, Minkler seconded and the CC unanimously voted to renew its CACIWC membership.

5. Silander reported that the Fenton River water levels were reasonable for this time of year.

6. Torrey boundary marking update: Kaufman reported that she had sent the map for the Town-owned Holly Drive subdivision to Dahn so that he and Kessel could finish this project.

7. Kaufman reported on the progress of the electron trail guide project. A draft of the Electronic Trail Guide should be available sometime this fall.

8. IWA Referrals.

a) W1266 - Moskowitz - Stone Mill Road. Map date 6/29/04. This is an application for a second pond on the property. Silander moved and Trainor seconded that there should be no significant negative impact on the wetlands if hay bales/silt fencing barriers are placed where the outlet pipe goes under the driveway during construction and removed after the site is stabilized. The motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

b) W1267 - Yankee - Hillyndale Road. Map date 6/25/04. This application is for a single family house within 150 feet of wetland areas. Silander moved and Kessel seconded that there may be a significant negative impact on the adjacent wetlands because the septic system is within 26 feet of wetlands, the lawn goes right up to the wetland, the house is within 30 feet of the wetland and the porch within 25 feet of the wetland. The motion passed unanimously.

9. PZC Referral 1219 - Bone Mill Subdivision: Due the CC not meeting in June, the CC was unable to comment on this referral in a timely manner. However, the CC wishes the PZC to know that the CC agrees that the site plan provided is singularly uninspired. If this is an example of what the revised PZC regulations permit, it certainly is not in the spirit of cluster housing purporting to conserve open space. Furthermore, the CC notes the apparent presence of an invasive species (winged Euonymus?) in the landscaping.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Kessel  
Secretary